

east of Dallas. Waco would become a part of Fort Worth. And Abilene would be dominated by Lubbock.

In addition to arrogant politics, this is poor public policy. Urban districts and rural districts have different interests, different needs, different representations. My district has issues such as water, timber, rural health care, steel. Issues are different in urban areas. Texarkana, meet Plano. Sulfur Springs, this is Highland Park. Tatum? Houston is calling. Red River County's median income, \$28,000 a year; Collin County's median income, \$73,000 a year.

If you live in Texas, you know this plan will not work, yet the Republican powers that be in Washington continue to run roughshod over the Texas Legislature, both Democrats and Republicans.

Everyone knows this process is a sham, a joke, an embarrassment, and illegal. In fact, it is no process at all. This is an insult to the word "process." It is a naive, weak-kneed Republican-controlled statehouse letting Washington, D.C., insiders run over it. As a result, 53 principled Democrats in the statehouse stood up for the citizens of our State and said, enough. They broke the politically decreed quorum. Thank God these men and women stood up against the tyranny and heavy-handedness of the mindless majority. Thank God fierce independence still lives.

But, Mr. Speaker, let us step back and see what Republican representatives in Texas, not Republican Representatives in Washington, D.C., working their will are saying. Let us see what they say in Texas. Representative Charlie Geren, Republican, Fort Worth, said the Democrats were doing what they believed they needed to do in order to represent their constituents. "I understand what they're doing. It's just really the only tool in their toolbox," Geren said. "They're passionate about the map that's in front of us not being good for their constituents."

Representative Pat Haggerty, Republican, El Paso. "It's the smartest move they could have made," Haggerty said. "Under the circumstances, it was the only alternative they had. It's been done before. It's in the rules, and they're playing by the rules."

That is what the Republicans in Texas said. The Democrats are working hard, standing tall, standing up for their constituents and playing by the rules.

Let us stop this Tom and Gerry-mandering dead in its tracks. Let us get the State back to the issue of education, back to the issue of the budget, back to the issue of taxes, back to the issue of homeland security. Mr. Speaker, let us get the State House back to the issues of the people. That is what they expect, and that is what they deserve.

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The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. CHOCOLA). Under a previous order of

the House, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. FROST) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. FROST addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extension of Remarks.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. TURNER) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. TURNER addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extension of Remarks.)

TEXAS REDISTRICTING

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. LAMPSON) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. LAMPSON. Mr. Speaker, I am proud to follow my colleagues from the Texas congressional delegation who have just previously spoken and also prouder to stand up here and be able to speak in behalf of some of my colleagues who are serving in the Texas House of Representatives, my constituents in the Ninth Congressional District of Texas, people like Joe Deshotel, who is a former vice president of Lamar University in Beaumont; Allan Ritter, who owns a successful lumber company in Nederland, Texas; and Craig Eiland, who is a successful attorney on Galveston Island, all honorable members of the Texas legislature, which is a citizen legislature, not a full-time legislature like our Congress is. I am so proud of them.

As we heard my colleagues say in the last few minutes, these ladies and gentlemen have stood up for principle, and it is magnificent to see their unity and their willingness to put their political lives on the line. They put Texans before their own personal political ambitions, and I am proud of them for doing the right thing. The real victims of this redistricting plan that is before Texas is not the members who hold those seats right now but it is the communities, certainly not the Members of Congress who may be here. The fight is not about Nick Lampson. It is not about the Democrats or the Republicans. It is about the people of Texas who deserve to be represented fairly and fully in Washington, D.C.

Jefferson County, Chambers County, Galveston County, the areas that I represent along the upper Texas gulf coast, have been in the same congressional district for over 3 decades. They have in common the size of their communities, the large petrochemical industry, and interests which run throughout that area, coastal and water transportation industries and a whole lot more beyond that. Splitting these counties apart and even further splitting Jefferson County and my hometown of Beaumont itself dilutes the strength of the interests and the ability of the people who live there to be represented as those citizens want

to be represented. Splitting these communities is in a sense a disenfranchisement of the people within those communities.

This fight, however, is about more than redistricting. It is about the infusion of partisanship that exists in Washington, D.C., into the Texas legislature. I am absolutely astounded to learn of some of the things that I have heard in the last several days following the action of those brave Texas legislators who chose to go across the Texas border into Oklahoma. I am astounded at the fact that my friend Craig Eiland, that State representative that I just mentioned, his wife, Melissa, who has recently had twin babies who were born prematurely and are in the hospital in Galveston, knowing that State law enforcement officials were directed by the Governor of our State and by the Speaker of our House to go and question the nurses in that hospital, wanting to know the whereabouts of State Representative Craig Eiland. And even after it was published in the newspaper that our legislators were in Ardmore, Oklahoma, they went to Craig's wife's home where Craig was not there and harassed her about his whereabouts, when their babies are in the hospital being treated.

We are seeing an abuse of power. We are seeing an abuse of Federal resources even. The fact that Federal resources, according to the newspapers in Texas, the homeland security agency had an airplane that was tracked. The airplane belonged to a cotton farmer/State legislator, citizen legislator, Pete Laney. It was through the information that our United States Federal homeland security agency gave to the State of Texas that led to the whereabouts of our legislators who were trying to send a message to the Speaker of the House and to the Governor of Texas. We used the wrong kind of resources because interestingly enough about 2 miles from here down the road stands a hotel called the Watergate, a place of historical significance and a symbol of the use of Federal law enforcement resources for private political gain. I am not sure where TOM DELAY stays when he is in Austin, but maybe someday that hotel will carry the same significance as Watergate. It might remind us all of the outrageous diversion of Federal law enforcement authorities to pursue Democratic legislators.

I am proud of these folks who stood up in Texas. When we shut out the interests of the people because of partisan politics, it is the people who are the ultimate losers. The people of Texas are not losers.

It might remind us all of the outrageous diversion of federal law enforcement authorities to pursue Democratic legislators who fled to Oklahoma.

In this current time when we face the threat of terrorism, asking the Department of Justice, Homeland Security and the FBI to participate in personal politics is despicable.